#### (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

# (19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



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#### (43) International Publication Date 9 June 2005 (09.06.2005)

#### PCT

## (10) International Publication Number WO 2005/052122 A2

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>:

**C12N** 

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2004/039189

(22) International Filing Date:

22 November 2004 (22.11.2004)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/481,696

22 November 2003 (22.11.2003) US

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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

#### Published:

without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHODS FOR CONTROLLING PATHOLOGICAL ANGIOGENESIS BY INHIBITION OF  $\alpha6\beta4$  INTEGRIN

(57) Abstract: It has now been determined that α6β4 integrin is a pro-angiogenic receptor, and thus that it provides a novel and heretofore unrecognized target for anti-angiogenic therapy. Thus, angiogenesis, particularly pathological angiogenesis, can be inhibited, and conditions with which pathological angiogenesis is associated treated using inhibitors of α6β4 integrin. A tissue in which angiogenesis is to be inhibited is exposed to a therapeutic agent effective to reduce the amount of active α6β4 integrin in the tissue. The tissue may be within a patient, and in particular a human patient, to be treated for a disease condition with which pathological angiogenesis is associated. The therapeutic agent may be an antibody or a small molecule, for example a laminin-5 analog, which binds to α6β4 integrin and inhibits its normal function. The therapeutic agent may also be a chemical species that interferes with the production of α6β4 integrin, including for example an antisense or RNAi species.



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